

HOUSE RESOLUTION 276  
By Pruitt

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Odie Lee Johnson on the celebration of her 100th birthday.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pay tribute to those citizens who are celebrating special occasions in their estimable lives; and

WHEREAS, Odie Lee Johnson celebrates her 100th birthday on May 8, 2006, a milestone that will be commemorated as yet another precious souvenir of life's rich pageant; and

WHEREAS, the oldest child of four born to Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Jones, Odie Lee Johnson was born and raised in Lewisburg, Tennessee, in Marshall County; and

WHEREAS, after finishing a tenth-grade education, Miss Odie Lee Jones was first employed as a teacher for black children in Lewisburg; in her twenties, she married and had one child, Thelma; after her husband died suddenly, she married a local minister, the Reverend Willie Johnson, a few years later, and the family moved to Nashville; and

WHEREAS, Odie Lee Johnson served with acumen and alacrity for thirty-five years as a housekeeper for a Nashville family, and was well in to her eighties before she retired; throughout her career, she had the respect and admiration of her employer and her community because of the superior quality of her work; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Johnson's selfless deeds and loving devotion have made her an amazing mother to her daughter, Thelma, and she loves spending time with her four grandchildren, ten great-grandchildren, and twelve great-great grandchildren, all of whom love and adore her; and

WHEREAS, as Odie Lee Johnson embarks upon her eleventh decade, she is still an active member of Charles Davis Senior Saints and the 90+ Group with the Metropolitan

Development and Housing Agency; Mrs. Johnson lived in the J.C. Napier Community for forty-six years before building her own home at the age of 95; and

WHEREAS, a devout member of Pilgrim Emmanuel Baptist Church, which she attended faithfully for sixty-two years, Odie Lee Johnson served as the church's secretary for thirty-five years; in 2002, her faith, perseverance, and cheerful spirit led her to join Greater St. John Missionary Baptist Church, where she is an active member and an inspiration to all who are privileged to know her; and

WHEREAS, this remarkable woman enjoys such activities as sewing, solving crossword puzzles, singing hymns, and reading the Bible daily; and

WHEREAS, Odie Lee Johnson is renowned for her dedication to her church, family, and friends, of whom she has an abundance; God has been good to her, and it is fitting and proper that she will be surrounded by many church and family members and friends when she is honored at her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration; and

WHEREAS, we wish to grasp this golden opportunity to specially recognize one of Tennessee's most outstanding citizens on this very special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor and congratulate Mrs. Odie Lee Johnson on the celebration of her 100th birthday and extend to her our best wishes for much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.